

RIDE SAFE PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Ride Safe! The Indian Health Service (IHS) developed Ride Safe to help tribal communities address motor vehicle injuries among American Indian and Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children. Ride Safe aims to reduce the rate of motor vehicle related injuries to children, aged 3 to 5 years, enrolled in participating Tribal Head Start programs, by promoting child restraint use. The Ride Safe Program training module includes eight guides. Each guide includes activities for a specific group within the Tribal Head Start or community.

BACKGROUND

Motor vehicle crashes (MVCs) are the leading cause of death for AI/AN ages 1-44. Tragically, MVC injuries and deaths disproportionately affect the youngest members of the community and their families. MVCs are the leading cause of death among AI/AN children. Individuals that would one day grow up to be future community members and leaders often don't get the chance to take their place in the community due to a MVC. These losses are even more tragic because the majority of MVC injuries and deaths could be prevented through the proper use of a child safety seat or seatbelt.

When parents and childcare providers use appropriate occupant restraints while transporting their child in a vehicle, the chances of their child surviving a car crash improves dramatically. Unfortunately, ongoing observational surveys in AI/AN communities suggest that seatbelt and child safety seat usage rates in many tribal communities are very low.

Some of the reasons parents cite for not using child safety seats include the following*:

- Use of occupant restraints (child safety seats and seatbelts) is not mandated by state or tribal law
- Adult family members don't use vehicle restraints
- Families cannot afford child safety seats
- Children are resistant to being placed in a child safety seat
- Child safety seats are difficult to install
- Short trips aren't perceived as being hazardous
- Selected vehicle restraint systems (lap belt) are incompatible with booster seats.

**Most of these factors were cited in a local focus group and noted in Child Passenger Safety literature.*

The **Ride Safe** Program will achieve its overall goal by meeting the following objectives:

1. Provide funding and support for at least one Tribal Head Start staff member or partner to complete the National Highway Traffic (NHTSA) Child Passenger Safety (CPS) technician training.
2. Provide one to two-day CPS training for all Head Start staff participating in Ride Safe activities.
3. Educate parents and childcare providers about proper and age-appropriate child restraint use.
4. Distribute to parents and care givers one child safety seat for each child at a Head Start that implements the Ride Safe Program.
5. Follow-up Home Visits will be conducted 2 to 3 months after a seat is provided to parents. These visits will:
 - a. Check to see that the child safety seat is still present
 - b. Go over installation skills with parents
 - c. Provide additional training as needed
 - d. Reinforce child safety seat usage by giving parents positive feedback on child safety seat usage.
6. Gather community child restraint use data at the beginning of the school year and at the end by doing child safety seat observational surveys.
7. Promote community awareness about how to lessen the severity of motor vehicle crash injuries through child safety seat use.

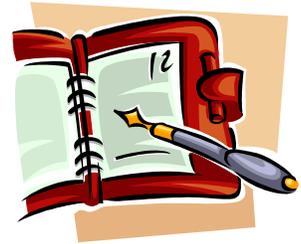
The Ride Safe Program was designed to meet Head Start Performance Standards 1304.22(d)(1)&(2) for Injury Prevention and 1304.40(a)(1), and 1304.41(a)(1)(2) for collaborative partnership-building:

1. Ensure that staff and volunteers can demonstrate CPS skills properly to parents and childcare providers
2. Foster CPS awareness among children and childcare providers by incorporating it into activities
3. Engage in a collaborative partnership with other government and non-government groups to conduct CPS training and activities.

The **Ride Safe** curriculum contains 9 Guides summarized below:

1. Site Preparation Guide

This Guide is for Ride Safe Program Coordinators to use when preparing participation in Ride Safe. These activities should be conducted during the summer before the start of the new school year.



2. Coordinator's Guide

This Guide provides information to assist Ride Safe Program Coordinators in meeting the goals and objectives of the program. A brief explanation of the Coordinator's roles and responsibilities is provided, as well as suggestions for implementing the main aspects of the Ride Safe Program.



3. Program Support Staff Guide

The Program Support Staff Guide provides information to assist Program Support Staff (i.e., local Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) and/or Injury Prevention Specialists) in supporting Ride Safe Program Coordinators in meeting the goals and objectives of the program. A brief explanation of Program Support Staff roles and responsibilities is provided, as well as suggestions for monitoring and supporting Ride Safe Program activities.



4. Child Safety Seat Distribution Guide

This Guide is intended for Ride Safe Program Coordinators to use when planning and implementing child safety seat distribution activities. The guide provides Coordinators with practical information to consider when planning for the distribution of child safety seats and instruction on conducting distribution activities.



5. Staff & Childcare Provider's Training Guide

This Guide is designed to be used by Ride Safe Coordinators to provide education to Head Start Staff and Parents and Childcare providers about child passenger safety. Different ways of providing training and education are provided.



6. Tribal Partnerships Guide

This Guide is designed to give Ride Safe Program Coordinators and Program Support Staff ideas and tools for expanding child passenger safety activities to the larger community. The activities included in this Guide were designed to be implemented as a partnership between Ride Safe Coordinators, IHS/Tribal Environmental Health Officers, and other interested community members.



7. Resource Guide

This Guide lists child passenger safety resources and internet sites that Coordinators and Program Support Staff can use to enhance Ride Safe Program activities.



8. Child Passenger Safety Seat Use Observation Guide

This Guide provides instructions to Ride Safe Coordinators and Program Support Staff to conduct carseat usage observation surveys. Step-by-step instructions on how to complete the Observation Form are also provided.



9. Forms / Data Reporting Guide

This Guide provides a summary and compilation of all of the forms required for Ride Safe Program data collection and entry. It also includes instructions for using the Survey Monkey program for reporting Program activities and data.

